

This plant occurs in delicate ochraceous or ferruginous masses, falling into powder on the slightest touch. The filaments are so slender, and the joints so obscure, that I have been unable to determine the form of the frustules, and have therefore taken the specific character from Ehrenberg; I am also unable to ascertain whether the joints are marked by any central line. Having received from Mr. Dillwyn a specimen of his *Conferva ochracea*, which I am able confidently to refer to this species, I have restored the original specific name. Ehrenberg is no doubt correct in placing the plant in this genus, as the filaments are siliceous and cylindrical.

When submitted to a red heat it acquires a reddish tinge, which circumstance, together with the colour and slender filaments, will easily distinguish it from all the other species.

Analysis.

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| 1. | { Joints very obscure, the central line apparently wanting, <i>ochracea</i> . | |
| | { Joints and central line distinct | 2 |
| 2. | { Filaments moniliform; frustules connected in pairs..... | 3 |
| | { Filaments not moniliform; frustules not connected in pairs..... | 5 |
| 3. | { Frustules and connecting portion closely striated | <i>globifera</i> . |
| | { Frustules with one to three lines, not striated | 4 |
| 4. | { Frustules globular | <i>nummuloides</i> . |
| | { Frustules longer than broad, cylindrical, with the ends rounded | <i>Borreri</i> . |
| 5. | { Junction-surfaces not striated | <i>varians</i> . |
| | { Junction-surfaces striated | 6 |
| 6. | { Frustules broader than long | <i>arenaria</i> . |
| | { Frustules two or three times longer than broad | <i>orichalcea</i> . |

XLV.—*Information respecting Scientific Travellers.*

WE take much pleasure in announcing that three enterprising botanists are now engaged in exploring the most interesting portions of the *far West*, and that their collections of dried plants will be offered to subscribers, in sets, as they come to hand. Two of these collectors, Mr. Charles A. Geyer (well known as the botanist of Mr. Nicolle's official north-western expedition), and Mr. Lüders, who are for the present attached to Sir Wm. Stewart's party, have by this time reached the Rocky Mountains. The particular field of Mr. Geyer's operations, and the extent of his journey, were undecided at the time of his departure from St. Louis. Mr. Lüders expects to spend the next winter, and perhaps the ensuing summer, at a station of some Roman Catholic missionaries on the upper waters of Lewis and Clarke's or Great Snake River. These botanists being well acquainted with the vegetation of the general Valley of the Mississippi and of the lower Missouri, will doubtless avoid the common and better known plants of this region; and thus their collections may be expected to prove unusually choice and valuable.

The third collector, Dr. Lindheimer, a very assiduous botanist, intends to devote a few years to the exploration of Texas; and he pledges himself to exclude from his sets all the common plants of the south-western United States.

These several collections will be assorted and distributed, and for the most part ticketed, by Dr. Engelmann of St. Louis; assisted, as far as need be, by the authors of the 'Flora of North America,' who promise to determine the plants, so far at least as they belong to families published in that work; and for the information of subscribers, particular notices of the *centuria* offered for sale will probably appear in this Journal* as they come to hand. The number of sets being limited, earlier subscribers will receive a preference. The three explorers are entirely independent of each other, and their collections are to be separately subscribed for.

The price of the Rocky Mountain collections of Geyer or of Lüders is fixed at ten dollars (or two guineas) per hundred; that of Dr. Lindheimer's Texan collections at eight dollars (or *l.* 13s. 6d. sterling) per hundred—payable on delivery of the sets at St. Louis, Missouri, by Dr. George Engelmann; at New York by Wiley and Putnam, 161 Broadway, and Stationers' Hall Court, London; and Prof. A. Gray of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to either of whom subscribers may address themselves (post paid) by mail. The additional expense of transportation, doubtless trifling in amount, will be charged upon the sets deliverable in London.

The writer of this notice cheerfully states that the dried specimens made by these botanists which have fallen under his observation are well selected, very complete, and finely prepared; and he cordially joins Dr. Engelmann in recommending the enterprise to the patronage of botanists.

For the purpose of obtaining some immediate pecuniary aid in the prosecution of his present arduous undertaking, Mr. Geyer also offers for sale (through the parties above mentioned) a selection from his collections of the last year in Illinois and Missouri, consisting of twenty sets of one hundred and fifty species of plants, which are offered at six dollars per set.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A Catalogue of British Fossils; comprising all the genera and species hitherto described, with references to their Geological Distribution and to the Localities in which they have been found. By John Morris. London, Van Voorst, 1843.

NATURALISTS of all classes will thank Mr. Morris for this most valuable volume, which, apparently a list of names, is in reality a summing-up of the state of our knowledge of British organic remains at the present time, and being such, becomes the starting-point of future research. It is no mere compilation, but the result of a critical examination of the characters, synonyms, descriptions, and published representations of all the species of animals and plants hitherto recorded

* Silliman's American Journal, from which this notice has been taken.
—Ed. *Ann. Nat. Hist.*